Appointment of Pedro "Pete" Molina Assistant Secretary of Native American Veterans Affairs

March 3, 2010 / 11:00 am
California Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 "O" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS

CAL VET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Native American Veteran War History

A common bond between all Native Americans is their dedication to tradition and their culture. Native Americans have endured barriers, both natural and manmade, that has made survival strenuous and difficult; however, we are still here because of our commitment to our ancestor's beliefs.

Native American teachings come from our creator Nature, the Eagle and Mother Earth, and as long as there is Nature, it will be impossible to destroy the Native American Spirit. We have survival skills and are in tune with Nature and believe in Nature's balance. Our culture has remained with us despite obstacles presented by the United States and the Europeans quest for territory.

Native Americans are a Proud Group of People and traditionally Honor Our Veterans.

Since the Revolutionary War, Native Americans have bravely and honorably defended our country. However, these contributions were altogether too often been overlooked in the records of history. Throughout World War I, of the 8,000 Native Americans enlisted, 6,000 were volunteers. During World War II, 25,000 Native Americans fought in Europe and Asia receiving: 71 Air Medals; 51 Silver Stars; 47 Bronze Stars; 34 Distinguished Flying Crosses; and 2 Congressional Medal of Honor.

During the Vietnam Conflict, more than 41,500 Native Americans fought for the United States, of those, 90% were volunteers, giving Native Americans the highest record of service of any ethic group in the country. In 1990, prior to Desert Storm, there were 24,000 Native Americans in the military. Approximately 3,000 served in the Persian Gulf and currently one of every four American Indian males is a military veteran.

Documentation from LORE Magazine 9, vol. 43, No. 3, 9/93: p9-18

Agenda

Flag Song
Painted Rock Drum, Tule River Reservation

Eagle Staffs

Presentation of Colors
Pacific Region of The National American Indian Veterans
Tule River Native Veterans Post 1987

Traditional Cultural Dancers
Johnny Coronado and Family

Blessing
Ron Alec-Hol-A-Ma Mono Bear Tribe / Robert John-Seneca Olone Tubotalobal

Prayer
Ron Goode-North Fork Mono Tribe

Veteran's Warrior Song

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome
Roger Brautigan, Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs

Appointment
Pedro "Pete" Molina, Assistant Secretary of Native American Veterans Affairs

Acknowledgements and Invited Legislators
Donald E. Loudner, Commander National American Indian Veterans
Joey Strickland, Col. (Ret), Director of Veterans Services Arizona
Fransico Ivarra, Commander, American GI Forum
Jesus F. Osuna, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council Member
David Rambeau, Executive Director, United American Indian Involvement
Jack Shantz PSY.D.RN, Deputy Acos, Fresno VA

California Department of Veterans Affairs
Native American Veterans Advisor Committee
Pedro 'Pete' Molina, Frank Ramirez, Bobbyjo Henry, Ben Charley Jr., Dan Tatum,Larry Myers

Retire Colors

California Department of Veterans Affairs

ADVISORY

Contact: JP Tremblay
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Legislation and Public Affairs
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February 26, 2010

Swearing-in Ceremony for Pedro Molina as Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs

EVENT: A swearing-in ceremony for Governor Schwarzenegger appointee Pedro Molina as the first-in-the-nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs. The ceremony will include a Native American blessing, ceremonial dancers and Tepee display.

DATE: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Department of Veterans Affairs
Front parking lot (if rain in the Medal of Honor Hall)
1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

WHO: There will be approximately 150-200 people from various tribes throughout the state who will attend this event, including several tribal leaders from California tribes. Additionally there will be several dignitaries from American Indian and veterans communities including: Joey Strickland, Director for the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs; David Rambo, National Council of Urban Indian Health; Don Laudner, National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans and representatives for several California-based tribes.

BACKGROUND: Pedro Molina, of Fresno, has been appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as the first in the nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs in the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Molina has served the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as American Indian program manager and marketing and community relations representative since 1998 and previously held the positions of minority veterans program manager from 1995 to 1997 and Hispanic veteran program manager from 1975 to 1995. Molina is a member of the Yaqui Nation from Tucson, Arizona. He served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1973.

Note to editors: This Advisory and previous CalVet news releases, advisories and newsletters are available on our website at www.calvet.ca.gov and via email from jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.

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